

Amendment No. 1 to SB1166

**Southerland
Signature of Sponsor**

FILED

Date _____

Time _____

Clerk _____

Comm. Amdt. _____

AMEND Senate Bill No. 1166

House Bill No. 958*

by deleting all language following the caption and by substituting instead the following:

WHEREAS, the State of Tennessee has granted to blind individuals a priority in the establishment and operation of vending facilities on certain public property in this state in order that they may become self-supporting, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 71, Chapter 4, Part 5; and

WHEREAS, the state expends considerable public funds for the administration of the blind vendor program, and must ensure that those funds are being spent in a manner consistent with the original purpose of the blind vendor program; and

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly are in need of a comprehensive study of all issues surrounding Tennessee's blind vendor program; now, therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. There is created a special committee to study the administration of Tennessee's blind vendor program, established pursuant to title 71, chapter 4, part 5. The committee shall be known as the Committee to Study the Blind Vendor Program, herein referred to as "the committee."

SECTION 2. The committee is charged to study the blind vendor program as a whole, including but not limited to its administration, the expenditure of funds pursuant to the program, any contracts executed by the state in the furtherance of the program, and the current law and regulations pertaining to the program in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the program in meeting the stated goal of providing to blind individuals a priority in the establishment and operation of vending facilities on certain public property in this state in order that they may become self-supporting and the efficiency of the program in its expenditure of public funds.

SECTION 3. The committee is charged to study, receive testimony, deliberate upon and make recommendations for public policy, including changes to law or regulation, designed to

provide a fair, effective and efficient blind vendor program that meets its stated goals without unduly hindering free enterprise in this state.

SECTION 4. In order to assist the committee with its study, the comptroller of the treasury shall initiate a comprehensive analysis of Tennessee's blind vendor program in order to prepare a report to the committee evaluating the effectiveness of the program in meeting its stated goals and the efficiency of the program in its expenditure of public funds, including recommendations for changes to the program, if any. The comptroller's analysis may include a review of existing statutes and regulations, contracts, documents relating to the expenditure of public funds for the program, or any other such materials that the comptroller deems necessary for the preparation of the report. The comptroller is instructed to complete its review and to provide its report to the committee by no later than September 1, 2007.

SECTION 5. The committee shall consist of six (6) members, as follows: three (3) members of the senate, appointed by the speaker of the senate, and three (3) members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house.

SECTION 6. The committee shall be convened by the legislative member with the most years of continuous service in the general assembly and, at its organizational meeting, shall elect from among its membership, a chair, vice-chair, and such other officers the committee may deem necessary.

SECTION 7. All legislative members of the committee who are duly elected members of the general assembly shall remain members of such committee until the committee reports its findings and recommendations to the general assembly.

SECTION 8. The committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the governor and the general assembly by no later than February 1, 2008, at which time the committee shall cease to exist.

SECTION 9. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.